

CLAIMS

1. A local communication system comprising a plurality of devices
5 interconnected for the communication of data, wherein one of said devices is a display device arranged to display data from one or more other devices of the system, and wherein one of said devices is a remote control device carrying a first group of controls for controlling respective operational functions of a device of the system, the system including:
- 10 selector means for identifying a selected device of the system to be controlled by user operation of said remote control device; and
- virtual control means to determine which operational functions of said selected device do not have a corresponding control on said remote control device, and generate on said display device a user actuatable simulacrum of a
- 15 control means for each such operational function.
2. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said simulacrum is generated by said display device based on data from said selected device.
- 20 3. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said simulacrum is generated by said display device by reference to stored data, which data is accessed by reference to the device type of the selected device.
4. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said simulacrum is
25 generated by said selected device and transmitted as display data to said display device.
5. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said remote control device has a corresponding control for all functions of said display device.
- 30 6. A system as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said remote control device includes a control for selectively actuating a displayed simulacrum.

7. A system as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said display device is arranged to display a plurality of simulacra and the remote control device comprises means for stepping through said simulacra and selecting one or
5 more thereof.

8. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein interconnection between two or more of the devices is provided by a wireless link.

10 9. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein interconnection between two or more of said devices is via a digital data communication bus to which the devices are respectively interfaced, with said data being carried thereupon as discrete data packets.

15 10. Data processing apparatus comprising the technical features of said virtual control means in a system as claimed in Claim 1.